(c) The prolonged incarceration of our nationals in jails in Pakistan is a matter of grave concern to the Government of India. Government has consistently taken up the issue of Indians in custody in Pakistan with the Government of Pakistan, including at the highest level. During the visit of EAM to Pakistan on January 13-14, 2007, it was decided to form a Judicial Committee comprising judges from India and Pakistan to ensure expeditious release and humane treatment of prisoners in either country. The Committee first met on 26-27 February, 2008 in New Delhi. It recommended that a consolidated list with full particulars and their present status of nationals in each other's jails be exchanged on 31st March, 2008 and that prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose national status has been verified be released forthwith. The lists of prisoners have been exchanged by the two Governments on March, 31 and are under study. India expects the Government of Pakistan to implement the recommendations of the Judicial Committee to release and provide consular access to all detained fishermen and prisoners.

Help to terrorist outfits

2710. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has expressed its concerns to Pakistan over ISIs continuing help to terrorist outfits like Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba to launch attacks in India;

(b) if so, the response of Government of Pakistan in this regard;

(c) whether Government proposes to take up the matter seriously with the Government of Pakistan to check such help to terrorist outfits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) India's concerns have been conveyed to the Government of Pakistan repeatedly including at its highest level. The issue of terrorism is discussed with Pakistan in the Composite Dialogue at the Foreign Secretaries talks, at the Home Secretary's talks within the Composite Dialogue, and in the Joint Anti-Terrorism Mechanism (JATM) set up in September, 2006. GoI expects the Government of Pakistan to implement its commitment at the highest level in the 6 January, 2004 Joint Press Statement that it will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

Stronger Military ties between India and China

2711. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China decided to have a stronger military ties;

(b) if so, whether India has also urged China to settle the border issue between the two countries;

(c) whether recently, the Indian delegation visited China and has proposed resumption of the mechanism in border talks, so that two side could get back again to delineating their claims by trading maps so as to narrow down the differences; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Chinese have agreed and the latest position in regard to the border issue?